

PATENT**REMARKS**

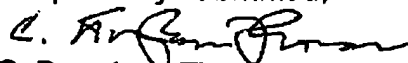
In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-8, 15 and 17-24, 26 and 28 under 35 USC §103(a). However, the Examiner identified claims 27 and 32-38 as containing allowable subject matter. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended the application to conform to the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner. In this regard, claims 27 and 35 have been amended to place them in independent form (i.e., by including the limitations of claim 24). In addition, claims 26 and 28 have been amended to alter their dependency. Still further, claims 5-8, 15 and 17-24 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 26-28 and 32-38 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-3894.

Respectfully submitted,


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